Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

Brrr-cky B : admin

Hi all! Posting this to WoFMB, SAMB, and 39Clues MB.

First off, sorry bout the apparent glitches that were happening on the site over the weekend. Came back to see mention of them in all the MBs. Seems like everything is back to normal now, but I'll still mention it to ~~the robots that control the internet~~ our developers.

Second, I see a lot of folks talk about their posts not being let through. I want to explain a bit how the moderation system works because the biggest issue here is really a lack of transparency on our part. And I'm sorry for that.

Basically, we have an autofilter that is (to put it bluntly) not smart...but necessary. We used to used to do everything manually 4+ years ago and BOY was it slow. We literally read through hundreds of posts a day so it would sometimes take days for your post to go through, especially if it was a long one. So, now we have this filter that does that automatically, catches words, and pings me if there's something that needs my attention. I typically read through the filtered posts anyway so I know what's going on, and why something was filtered out.

Why didn't my post go through?
Chances are there was a word or sequence of words that the filter didn't like in your post. This can be words you made up - if the filter doesn't recognize something it sometimes will block it. Maybe there was a violent moment in a story, and the filter is taking it literally. Maybe you have a post that seems like it might have personal information, for example if you have a story about a made up school or a made up address. The filter doesn't know it's in a RP and thinks it's real info. The word "stupid" gets caught like 99% of the time because it thinks it's being used as an insult towards someone, even if it's obviously not.

Think of the autofilter as a robot that has zero sense of humor, doesn't get any sarcasm whatsover, takes things extremely literally, and doesn't understand the concept of context. And also hasn't read any books.

What can I do to help my post go through?
Look at what you wrote and check:
1. are there words that could possibly be considered insults toward someone?
2. is there potential personal information? Even if it's made up for a story?
3. am I using a bunch of uncommon words or words I've made up myself?

There are a lot of false positives and it stinks. All I can say is just try and try again with a few edits taking this stuff into account.

I will say the auto-moderation is *a lot* better than it used to be, and is certainly much better than when it took days for a post to go through when we manually checked every message.

Why did I get banned?
I'd say the *most common reasons* someone who is an active member of the community gets banned are:
-sharing personal information

-sharing usernames for other sites
-linking to outside websites.

These bans should only last 24 hours to a week. A month ban is uncommon but happens on occasion if you're an active member of the community, we don't think you should be permabanned, but ya keep on giving us reasons to ban you. Permabans are given out to users who are clearly trolls, spam accounts, or active members who have done something really bad like constant bullying, harassment, etc.

If you've written something where it sounds like you're going through a hard time, we send a message with our concern. This message comes by way of a ban that expires instantly. I want to be clear that you're not getting banned for expressing your feelings. "Ban messages" are simply the main way we can send a message to you about what you're writing. Is this ideal? Definitely not. But it's what we've got.

Chatting
In the Scholastic chat there's an autoban system that's similar to the autofilter since we can't be on chat all the time reading messages. It will sometimes give you a "time out" aka cool off period of 15 minutes to 24 hours for doing things like spamming the chat, saying inflammatory things, or giving out personal information.

If what you did is bad enough, like trying to write your phone number, saying something super mean, or harassing someone, you may be banned for much longer.

It also has an extremely picky autofilter. I know it stinks and blocks out a ton of words, seemingly at random, but it's there to make the chat safe. I've seen it block silly things like the word "go" but also prevent trolls from harassing people. The main thing to understand about this autofilter is that it blocks words it doesn't know. I've seen typos get blocked, or forgetting a space between words such as "heyyou" get blocked.

Last but not least
If a post seems like it's going to turn into a debate, argument, or something that's inappropriate/unhealthy for the forum we mods reserve the right to lock the post or delete it, even if it's not necessarily breaking a rule at the moment. This doesn't happen frequently, but it has happened. I will always try to leave a message on the post so that it's clear why and it hasn't just vanished.

I hope this clarifies some stuff about posts and bans and is helpful! We *are* working on a bunch of stuff that I hope will make interacting with one another on here better...but that's all I can say about that.

-Becky B

60

Wings of Fire Book #12: The Hive Queen....it's out now!!

WoFMB: wingsoffire.scholastic.com/forums/topics/344922

SAMB: spiritanimals.scholastic.com/forums/topics/344060

39 Clues: doublecross.scholastic.com/forums/topics/344061

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

crimsondragon3073

This was really helpful and interesting to know, thank you!

6

cƠЯƐγ

I'm not real. I'm theatre.

"You must be truly desperate to come to me for help." -Loki

MBotF

b o o

ice cold

2015

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

crimsondragon3073

~~First lol~~

2

cƠЯƐγ

I'm not real. I'm theatre.

"You must be truly desperate to come to me for help." -Loki

MBotF

b o o

ice cold

2015

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

autumnlibrarian16

Thanks for making this post! It makes a lot more things clear.

7

Autumn [Librarian]
she/her - nerd - gamer
"If you make a mistake and do not correct it, that is a second mistake."
Homethread: /304740

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

phoenixdragon1690

Thank you for making this, having a little more explanation of how this all works is really helpful.

7

Such is the path of a dreamer: I find my way by moonlight.

~Oncilla~

Queen of Non Sequitur, Bookwyrms, Pangolins, and Bones

Trash Squad, Werewolf, GASTER FOLLOWER

Writer, roleplayer, nerd

WoFMBer Dec. 2014-Mar. 2019

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

fanwings38

Thank you and I KNEW IT!!! Question: If a post goes thro in a second, does that mean it went thro the chat autofilter first?

1

««ƑЯƐƐ∂σM™»»
Est. 1.13.18
Mod Eerf ©2018

KING O' LENNIES!
{he/him/fan-sea-nightwing/giant mountain/etc.}
2400+ ☆
#Myhomethreadisat/336075
#TexasStrong
#DistrictSpellingBee 2/6/19

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

readingdragon343

Oof, thanks for clearing that up!

1

Call me...*~*Reading*~*
Friendly Neighborhood Fangirl
Fanwing
Gryffindor
Bookworm
Jedi
Christan
I'm really going to miss the forums. I love all of you! Please find me on homebase! My user is the same!

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

maroondragon561

thanks becky, you are the best! This info really helps.

2

TIGER

triplet with Rune and Time.

est.[June21st][2017] ☆2,820☆
Never be afraid to be yourself,
For we're all wonderfully unique,
In our own way.

Rip.

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

calmhawk91

You're a great admin! Thanks!

2

---

dellow

~~ravenclaw~~
she/her
christian
shadowclan

#colourless
#addthebushskirt

"Well, forgive me for not leaping for joy. Bad back, you know."
- Scar

~~sisters:~~ fallon**grendel**~~ellysia~~*&more*

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

butterflycat1708

This clarifies a lot of things. Thanks for making this post!

Oh uh I have a question

I've noticed some posts go through instantlY. Is that because the autofilter doesn't find anything wrong with them?

2

SPECTER

~ They/them ~ Nerdy friendo ~

Fight!
The universe calls.
Let the star's light
Refract into the night.
After all,
This world's never
truly dark.

+*~Believe~*+

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

irondragon1521

Well that cleared all my questions up.

1

Throw me to the crowd,I'll come back leading them in a riot.
He/Him
Call me Burner
Fanwing
Demigod
Forum cousin:Rune
Spartan brother with Alphawolf
God of war, darkness and night

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

amberunicorn816

Thanks for making this post, but I still can't change my siggy.

1

♦ T Ⓘ I L I H T ♦
SHE | HER
6-22-18
|+D E B T E R+|
•♬• MUSICIAN •♬•
+IceWings!+
~~I'm~~ b|r|o|k|e|n *but* I hide it with a s m i l e
Status: Inactive
P.E.R.S.O.N.A Mod
Forum Fam: Pluto, Atlas, Galaxian

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

dragoncat8962

Thanks Becky. Something tells me I'm going to be re-reading this post in the future too

1

✧>^-^<~ĸitçɒt~>^-^<✧

✧They/She/Ne/Xe/Cat✧

Dragon/Human/Cat/Candy

Quintuplets with Dellow, Quartz, Daisy, and Ellysia

I'm a Lesbian. Hi "

Act like the Candy Bar you Are!" -KitCat 8/1/18

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

darkwind90

Thank you.

2

DarkWind
Care for what you have now, because if you wait, it might be too late to go back.
Remember that not getting what you want is sometimes a wonderful stroke of luck.-Dalai Lama
TMOM Fan.
Take Nothing for Granted!
#MidWest FurFest 2018

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

prismkitten36

Why did I get banned?
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-sharing personal information
-sharing usernames for other sites
-linking to outside websites.

// shuffles awkwardly because I've done the second one and gotten a day ban for it

6

wild/spades

joined july 2nd, 2016

approximate star count: 5400

don't let the memories of this place die

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

twilightdragon1936

hew becky quick question

why is it that someone who referred people to another website banned
but a person who did things i can't even **mention on the site** allowed to stay here

5

V E L L I C H O R
he/xe/they

colourblind~system~anxious

~fire dances in the moonlight~

but what does the science say?

"It's been 3 hours
and we still don't know who's fronting"

being redesigned

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

crowsoul50

whispers from the void If you're going to have a system like this you need to enforce it equallyyyyyy

4

ISHMAEL

August 2017 — March 2019

13,035 stars uwu

When it's time for you to venture out, don't let fear have you looking back at what you're leaving behind.

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

Brrr-cky B : admin

@vertigo probably because it wasn't something I was aware of! But I've seen some posts recently, and I believe I know what and who you're talking about now.

When stuff happens outside the MB it's complex for us to deal with, mostly because we don't know about it. I also can't police what people do outside of this community. But since it appears that what happened involves many members of this community and is affecting you, we'll discuss what to do about it.

6

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Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

twilightdragon1936

oh wow I got an answer and my nickname used that's a first

Thanks for getting back to me, and if you could let us know if anything happens, that would be fantastic!

3

V E L L I C H O R
he/xe/they

colourblind~system~anxious

~fire dances in the moonlight~

but what does the science say?

"It's been 3 hours
and we still don't know who's fronting"

being redesigned

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

bashfuldragon917

thank you so much! i did have that problem where i word add a new letter or forget one and getting banned, but this makes it more clear.

1

~((-Bad Apple-))~
She/Her/Bad Luck
LGBT+ and Proud
Queen Of Curses and Shapeshifting
Deity of Magic, Oddities, And Shapeshifting
I Think There Is Something Wrong With Me
UwU

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

crazyangel178

Ok, I'm really glad that the mods saw the glitches. I was slightly worried that they just... went away and no mods saw it.

1

~G✧l✧e✧a✧m~

She/Her/Spiky Potato

☾ Flipside: Luna ☽

"Don't tell me the sky's the limit when there are footprints on the moon."
~Paul Brandt

→ForumFam: Uxii, Eliza, Rune
→In way too many roleplays

We will fight for our forums.
And we will win!

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

lightningdragon9493

People were worried you left

1

Elements are lightning and water!

call me Shard!

forum Fam: Cobra, Stormbringer

better then most at Halo (realy good)

#moonbli
#cleril

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

elfbrain270

Hi Becky! I saw where you unbanned that one person's glitch (I don't remember it was a glitch) permanet ban. My ban on my first account (tideswimming30) is still there. I tried using the "contact us" page, but nothing seemed to work. Please help if you can. thank you!!

1

twice as strong
still alive
we've made it this far
we know how to survive

~mills

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

dragonfrost7553

Thank you for letting us know

1

§Molten§

Aka Molt

“Your soul shall be mine”

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

ketchuppenguin20

Alrighty, thanks for the information.

1

KNIGHT

ROGUE

REST IN SPAGHETTI
NEVER FORGETTI

NEVER GIVE UP ON YOURSELF

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

calmdragon840

I fell on my face when I was almost done reading this, XD

1

Vegan
Clemence (Red sash)
Easily Ignored
Oh so you think I'm cute when I'm angry. Well, get ready because I'm about to be GORGEOUS
Outburst

dragontsunami966

Thanks

1

Tsunami

I'm crazy and proud of it

Forum sibs:key,fallen,Shi,lily,lily-Anna,Alphawolf,Egret

Books! I am obsessed with books!

Wolfs are awesome

I am:

Ravenclaw

Athena's daughter

Riverclan

Leavewing/Seawing

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

ablesong24

Wow, thank you so much!

1

⇨***KEY***⇦

We'll get through this
Twice as strong
Still alive

#SPAT

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

moonsteel33

I have a somewhat relevant question.
I heard once that some sites are "safe to talk about" or something - like, we can't link to them obviously, but we can still openly talk about it, like, "Oh hey there's this really funny video on YouTube it's called such-and-such." Is this how it actually works? And if it is, is there a Master List of these okay sites and what about them might not be safe to talk about (besides usernames of course)?
Thanks!

3

Sanetra

11562+ stars - Apr 2017 - Mar 2019

Life is the greatest gift. You've all helped shape mine. I can never thank you all enough. It's been so good.

Amigos
*eureka*DarkseaBearBlackberryVertigoLector*Gulfy*Caleo*Zodiak*TS
...I'm with you to the end

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

brainchicken363

Oh, I remember when you permanently banned my other account for no reason at all! Thanks scholastic for the headaches!

1

Scorch

(he/him)

[incert mark twain quote here]

Ben Shapiro boiiiiiis

Learn to code

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

fairymermaid4613

Thank you for posting this!

2

~Emma~
Princess of the AGMB
Currently in Once on This Island Jr.!

Plays I`ve Been In:
Galactic Starveyors - Mary Jane
Honk! Jr. - Betty/Froglet

"Blossom by blossom the Spring begins."
-Algernon Charles Swinburne-

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

amberunicorn1100

Would the word idiot go through?

0

Im Lily
Merry Christmas
☿

Forum Bro: Singly
Forum Sis: Fallon, Wing,
Forum Mum: Drago
Forum Twin: Singly

I BEILIVE!!!!!

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

cobradragon13636

Thx

0

OceanFlower

Seawings
river clan
Forum twin with River!

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

aquaclaws457

Becky you are AWESOME!

0

Seashell

PROUD GENDERFLUID

She/Her They/Them

I Am Bisexual

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

nightseeker12

hey becky, i'm guessing that the autofilter knows absolutely zip about trains, so how often do my posts get flagged?
also, just to get it flagged, DDA40X. look it up.

0

night
the last corn has been cut,
the last tracks torn up,
but beyond the peaks standing tall
lies fields extending to the shore
and soon we will push through the rainfall
and fill our new home with the dragon's roar

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

dragonsoul1197

Thank you so so SO VERY MUCH :D

0

†ιϻ ₵

He/Him
This is my Forumfic sign-up thread: /339280, If you want to read it, here: /340457
Triplets with Rune and Tiger

I'm thinking of putting something here for the end of the fourms but idk yet.

Icy Spicy!

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

nuttyangel33

I am amazed by the auto filter it is so efficient
How did you make it? Do you filter stuff out or only allow words from a wordbank?
Sorry if I'm weird lol

0

hello people

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

nuttyangel33

Wait.
I reread main post... and feel absolutely stupid right now.
oops

0

hello people

Clarifying the autofilter system and bans

nuttyangel33

Scholastic reserves the right to remove, or not display to others, any content which we feel is not right for our community. Remember, if you don't follow the guidelines above, your post may be deleted **or** you may be banned.